REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	28 October 1997
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Roots
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Surey Books
Author:	Mark Andrews
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature: Running time:

Trailers: Running time:

Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *Roots* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The book is objectionable because it strongly promotes incest by presenting it for the purpose of sexual titillation and as a viable sexual option.

The book contains a collection of scenarios which explicitly describe sexual activity between males who are related. The relationships include brothers, cousins, and uncles/nephews. The sexual activity is described as incestuous throughout the book and is presented as titillating for this reason. Because of this singular focus the book is considered to strongly promote incest as a viable sexual option that is stimulating and exciting.

Because the book strongly promotes incest as a viable form of sexual interaction, its availability is considered likely to be injurious to the public good.

Consideration has been given to the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the NZBR Act) before making a final determination on the classification of this publication. The publication is considered to strongly promote incest. Because of the promotion of incest the publication as a whole is considered likely to be injurious to the public good. Because of this likely injury the restriction of this publication is considered to be a reasonable limitation of the rights and freedoms contained in the NZBR Act that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

OFLC Ref: 9700845